

## **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIAL URGES HOMEOWNERS TO MAKE ANTI-WEST NILE PREPARATIONS IN THEIR YARDS**

### **Residents can take pre-emptive action to reduce mosquito breeding areas as spring approaches!**

Mike Reavis, Environmental Health Supervisor urges Yadkin County homeowners to make some common sense preparations to reduce mosquito-breeding areas on their properties once warm weather arrives.

The battle against the West Nile virus begins in our backyards. As winter turns to spring, homeowners should look around their properties and eliminate areas that could lead to standing water where mosquitoes could begin breeding in just a few weeks.

Here are some places you should check:

- \*Swimming pool covers. The cover gathers small puddles of water, which are perfect for mosquito breeding

- \*Either set your pool cover so it will not retain water, or remove the water every few days. You should do this for any other tarps or covers you have in your yard.

- \*Rain gutters and spouting. When the leaves fell last autumn, many of them landed in the gutters and spouting on your house. These leaves will create shallow pools when it rains, so clean out gutters and spouting before the spring rains come.

- \*Flower pots. Outdoor flowerpots or other containers used for gardening or other yard work fill with water and give mosquitoes a great place to breed. Either take these containers inside or make sure you dump the water every few days.

- \*Old tires. These are notorious as mosquito breeding grounds. If you are keeping any old tires around, put them in a garage or shed, if possible. If not, dump the water that gathers in them twice a week.

- \*Rake leaves from low-lying areas in your yard. Just like in gutters and spouting, small piles of leaves in low spots will collect and hold just the right amount of water for mosquitoes to hatch.